

05-123

COMMENT INTO DOCKET 03-123 FROM 32 PERSONS in South Carolina about video relay and wireless services (George Rogers (Deaf); Josephine Rogers (Deaf); Geraldine Church (Deaf); Lois Carter (Deaf); Calvin Brock (Deaf); Susan Brock (Deaf); Georginia Fitzpatrick (Deaf); Michael/Aimee Curry (Deaf); George Adams III (Deaf); Phyllis Adams (Deaf); Reba Brant (Deaf); Don Brant, Jr (Deaf); Samuel Patrick (Deaf); Alvin Biggerstaff (Deaf); Frances Biggerstaff (Deaf); John Brown (Hearing); Georginania Fitzpatrick (Deaf); William Barbour (DEAF); Nicky Blackmon (Deaf); Patricia Gillam (Deaf); Lisa McLendon (Deaf); Tina Howle (Deaf); Ronald Robinson (Deaf); Jeanette Driggs (Deaf); Gail Collins (Deaf); Banks Jenkinson (Deaf); Cindy Jenkinson (Deaf); IVA Robinson (Deaf); Kristaine Adams; James Visan (Deaf); Joan Harucki (Deaf); Bob Sheffield (Deaf))

-----Original Message-----

From: George A. Adams III [mailto:wahoo4438@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2005 1:20 PM
To: KJMWEB
Subject: Comments to the Chairman

RECEIVED

MAY 20 2005

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

George A. Adams III (wahoo4438@yahoo.com) writes:

I am a deaf advocate of SC. Video Relay is offered by Sprint in S.C. Video Relay is a federally funded program so you many contact the FCC directly and ask them why Snap Telecommunication cannot offer the service in South Carolina. thank you for your interest. George A. Adams III a deaf advocate of SC.

George Adams <wahoo4438@yahoo.com> wrote:

We SC Deaf community would like for the SC Telecommunication Equipments Distribution Program (SCTEDP) to consider new devices replacing Motorola T-900 which is obselete. It is time to move toward new and better device such as Blackberry, Sidekick 2 or 3 or other devices. It is very valuable that Deaf to have these device in case of emergency outgoing call. Many Deaf in SC cannot afford to pay high cost of these devices. We SC Deaf community would urge SCTEDP to move forward to new devices. Deaf cannot afford to pay at front cost and then get rebate later. The Public Service Commission in the past told the SC Deaf community that they would consider upgrading the new cellphone.

Please pass this on to other Deaf or Hard of Hearing.

Consider the SC Telecommunication Equipments Distribution Program (SCTEDP) to look into Video Remote System (VRS) with Video phone (VP) which will greatly benefit the Deaf or HOH to communicate on Television with video cam and be able to dial a qualified interpreter for appointment.

Video Relay is offered by Sprint in South Carolina. Video relay is a federally funded program so you may want to contact the FCC directly and ask them why Snap Telecommunications cannot offer the service here in South Carolina. Thank you for your interest. These Deaf signed up for FCC complaint about not allowing other Video Phone to compete with other companies. Indeed, other company can offer better feature and service with Video Phone. This is not America if you allow one company to control Video Phone.

These SC Deaf signed their name, address and phone no. below support this cause.

1. George Rogers (Deaf)
2. Josephine Rogers (Deaf)
3. Geraldine Church (Deaf)
4. Lois Carter (Deaf)
5. Calvin Brock (Deaf)
6. Susan Brock (Deaf)
7. Georginia Fitzpatrick (Deaf)

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List ABCDE

8. Michael/Aimee Curry (need one each of us) (Deaf)
9. George Adams III (Deaf)
10. Phyllis Adams (Deaf)
11. Reba Brant (Deaf)
12. Don Brant, Jr (Deaf)
13. Samuel Patrick (Deaf)
14. Alvin Biggerstaff (Deaf)
15. Frances Biggerstaff (Deaf)
16. John Brown (Hearing)
17. Georginania Fitzpatrick (Deaf)
18. William Barbour (DEAF)
19. Nicky Blackmon (Deaf)
20. Patricia Gillam (Deaf)
21. Lisa McLendon (Deaf)
22. Tina Howle (Deaf)
23. Ronald Robinson (Deaf)
24. Jeanette Drigges (Deaf)
25. Gail Collins (Deaf)
26. Banks Jenkinson (Deaf)
27. Cindy Jenkinson (Deaf)
28. IVA Robinson (Deaf)
29. Kristaine Adams
30. James Visan (Deaf)
31. Joan Harucki (Deaf)
32. Bob Sheffeld (Deaf)

George A. Adams III

552 Forestbrook Drive

Myrtle Beach, SC 29579

wahoo4438@yahoo.com

a Deaf advocate of South Carolina

Dear Sir:

I cannot believe there is NO Video Relay Services in the state of South Carolina. I had already asked the Communication Service of the Deaf (CSD) if they could install VRS in SC, but they told me in email that they have enough Video Relay Service in big cities.

I as a deaf citizen of SC, am speaking on behalf of majority of South Carolina Deaf, Hard of Hearing (HOH) and Deaf/Blind (30,000), trying to have better communication access for the Deaf or Hard of hearing (HOH). What I couldn't understand why FCC wouldn't allow a telephone company such as Snap Telecommunications, Inc. to participate in relay reimbursement to provide better services for the Deaf community. This would create more jobs for the Deaf, hearings, and qualified interpreters in SC working at the VRS facility.

Since FCC collects fund into interstate relay fund, should allow any telephone company to provide better services such as call waiting, call ID, call forward, built-in video mail and possibly 911. Never before Deaf ever experience all those kinds of features listed above. 80% of SC and other states, Deaf or HOH or Deaf/blind rely on Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability (SSDI). Many Deaf cannot afford these expensive Video phone (VP), I hope you can allow Snap Telecommunications provide those VP free to all Deaf. A lot of Deaf lives in rural areas or way out in the country that doesn't have the cable or DSL, how lucky I am to

have Road Runner; I do not think it is fair. Also true with you hearing having the quality of service like cell phone and Video Phone.

The Video Phone is worth for any Deaf to have to survive in emergency or gather information to know what is happened outside the world. My greatness concern for my Deaf community is calling 911, if a Deaf has a heart attack or his cars caught on fire somewhere or have emergency weather Alert on VP to warn the Deaf about the disastrous weather in SC. While you hearing have cell phone and you can contact anyone for emergency needs or receive vital information. While we Deaf have barely nothing.

Try to put both of your hands on your ears and see if you can hear. That is how we feel. Why FCC allows Deaf to have as many VP, but not allow many companies to provide better VP to the Deaf community? That sounds contradiction or opposite. American supposes to be free to provide any high technology to any Deaf. As matter of fact, we in SC are getting shortage of qualified interpreters, because they don't pay well and a long hard drive anywhere to interpret for a Deaf person.

If we have this VRS facility then I am sure can draw more qualified interpreters in the state of SC. 99% of the SC hospitals or doctors deny Deaf qualified interpreters.

Actually, Deaf's first language is ASL and English is second. Deaf must rely on their eyes all the time to get vital message, so this VP will help a lot. We have a lot of low functional Deaf anywhere who rely on VP to fully understand what is being said with ASL and body language.

I had done a lot to educate you and help my SC Deaf community with many other projects. Everything is in your hands to outreach the Deaf people with this VP and VRS. Don't turn away a company that will benefit the Deaf community to survive with their communication. We Deaf want to keep up with the hearing world, knowing what is going on or said outside the world.

If you need further information, please feel free to contact me.

Please try to think like a Deaf person who truly needs this VP with VRS.

I hope to hear from you soon.

George A. Adams III

A deaf advocate of SC

wahoo4438@yahoo.com

If you have different Internet provider, then why cannot we have different Video Phone offer by different companies to have better features and offered better services.

Server protocol: HTTP/1.1
Remote host: 24.211.50.22
Remote IP address: 24.211.50.22